

USAF Declass/Release Instructions On File

IDEA 1749

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17 FEB
1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Operations Order Panel

SUBJECT: IDEALIST Carrier Operations

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1. Attached is a resume of proposed IDEALIST operations from a United States Navy carrier against the [REDACTED]

25X1A2g

2. It is felt that the Operations Order Panel will have questions that will need answering before a meaningful operations order can be written. A joint Headquarters/[REDACTED] survey team is to visit the carrier on 24 February 64. It is desirable that they have as many questions as possible in hand that could be answered at that time. It is requested that the attached be reviewed and questions requiring answers be provided PLANS/FA/OSA by COB 19 February 64.

25X1A9a

[REDACTED]
Lt. Colonel USAF
Deputy for Field Activities, OSA

Attachment - 1
As stated above

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PLANS/FA/OSA/[REDACTED] bm (17 Feb. 64)
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Attachment 1

I. REQUIREMENT



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II. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. Coverage of the target area will be accomplished by a carrier based U-2G. An [REDACTED] detachment and one U-2G will join the carrier in the Hawaiian area for further deployment to the launch and retrieval point in the vicinity of [REDACTED]. The plan of action contains four principal phases:

1. Move detachment and U-2G aboard carrier and deploy from Hawaii.
2. Perform photographic sortie.
3. Confirm results and return to Hawaii.
4. Return detachment and U-2G to [REDACTED]

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B. The mission will make use of range extension techniques with target area altitudes of approximately 68,000 feet. Using these techniques and assuming approximately 1000 nautical miles required for flight line flying, the carrier may be remote from the target area by at least the distance of 800 nautical miles.

C. Search and rescue support will be furnished by carrier assets for the rescue of a downed pilot.

D. With a "B" camera the entire area of interest can be photographed in one sortie. This is a single passage over the total route and does not allow for deviations for weather.

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E. The take processing will be accomplished at [REDACTED] N.Y. and NPIC read-out will verify mission success prior to the detachment redeployment from Hawaii. Navy courier aircraft will ferry the take to Hawaii for further movement via commercial air. Navy inflight refueling is available if required.

F. The major factors involved in implementation of this mission include:

1. Final political approval must be secured. As a part of this approval the carrier to be utilized must be released from its programmed wartime (SIOP) mission.

2. Availability of a suitable carrier must be determined.

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3. Combat readiness of the [REDACTED] carrier capability must be established:

a. LAC must complete carrier trials with the U-2G. (Scheduled for 29 February 64)

b. Pilots must complete carrier training with the U-2G. (Scheduled for 2 March 64)

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c. A complete profile mission must be completed. (Scheduled for 4 March 64)

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d. An [REDACTED] logistical and personnel capability must be confirmed to support the carrier mission.

4. A cover story must be finalized and coordinated within the Interdepartmental Contingency Planning Committee.

G. Present estimates indicate sufficient assets will be available to support an IDEALIST carrier effort not later than 4 March 64. Accordingly, all Headquarters planning in support of this mission will be based on flying the first sortie on 23 March 64.

H. Communications operation plan:

1. Voice air-to-ship:

No problem is expected in this area since UHF and SSB radio equipment are available on the carrier.

2. Navigational aids:

Adequate compatible equipment exists aboard the carrier and includes: VOR, TACAN, radio beacon, and GCA as well as ILS.

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3. [REDACTED]

Arrangements will be requested to confirm a tape recording capability which is compatible with the ship's SSB receiver. With this arrangement [REDACTED] will be available.

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4. Point-to-Point:

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Secure radioteletype communications will be established between the carrier and Honolulu with [REDACTED] equipment aboard the carrier. The Navy transmitters at Honolulu will be utilized for this RTTY service to the carrier.

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III. SUPPORT ASPECTS

A. Logistics:

1. Aircraft:

Two aircraft have been modified as U-2G carrier aircraft. Approximately 350 pounds of increased structural work was accomplished to strengthen the landing gear, install a tail hook and strengthen some of the fuel system.

One aircraft (362) is in contractor flight test presently. The second (348) is programmed for 10 February 1964 delivery.

2. General:

25X1A6a The [REDACTED] staging kits to support a carrier mission will remain essentially the same as for ground based operations. It is expected that the additional items required will be available not later than 28 February 1964.

B. Personnel:

1. Pilots:

25X1A6a Seven detachment pilots will complete the special carrier flight training and continue to maintain proficiency. Requalification is necessary after a 30 day period and requires U-2G landings at [REDACTED] under the supervision of the LSO.

2. LSO:

25X1A6a One Navy landing signal officer is to be assigned to the [REDACTED] Detachment and will deploy during carrier operations. After operational readiness has been achieved, consideration is being given to attach this officer to Project Headquarters for liaison duty. In this manner his experience could be utilized during pre-mission planning.

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C. Communications:

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1. Equipment:

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The present [REDACTED] staging kit includes the necessary [REDACTED] to be used on board ship. No additional equipment is required for [REDACTED] with the possible exception of a [REDACTED] tape recorder.

Honolulu station will patch into the Navy transmitter for RTTY service. Therefore, no additional equipment is required.

2. Personnel:

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Present [REDACTED] communications personnel are sufficient for the mission.

3. Coordination:

Arrangements must be effected with the Navy in order that OSA personnel may visit Honolulu Navy facilities and establish the communications facilities outlined.

File:
Aircraft
Carrier
Operations

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File: Flat Top

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C/MD/OSA

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17 Feb 64
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